



## STATUS REPORT

# Progress and Improvements

DPW BUREAU/OFFICE Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant (Back River)

Date 10/14/2022

Parameters	Week ending 9/30/22	Week ending 10/7/22	Permit limit	Meeting Requirement
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	2 mg/l	4 mg/l	15 mg/l	Yes
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	<2.0 mg/l	2.0 mg/l	15 mg/l	Yes
Total phosphorus (TP)	<0.10 mg/l	0.15 mg/l	0.30 mg/l	Yes
Ammonia (NH3)	<0.1 mg/l	0.2 mg/l	3.0 mg/l	Yes
Total nitrogen (TN)	1.8 mg/l	2.6 mg/l	4.0 mg/l	Yes
E-coli	2 MPN/100 ml	18 MPN/100 ml	126 MPN/100 ml	Yes

MPN = Most Probable Number

## Compliance Updates

The Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant (Back River) has been in compliance with effluent permit levels for four months. The extension of the Consent Order and Revised Directive agreed upon between the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the City, will allow Maryland Environmental Service (MES) to perform the projects and services necessary to ensure continued compliance at Back River. The collaborative efforts of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) and MES have already produced improved results for the Back River.

## Maintenance Updates

The plant will have a fourth Primary Settling Tank (PST), #7, in service in October (updated schedule) and two others, #2 and #9, by January 2023. Plant operations require 4 small PSTs in service for full treatment. BRWWTP has 11 PSTs total (2 large and 9 small).

In-Ground Digester cleaning and repairs for #1 and #4 are underway. Timeline for completion is December 2022. The digestion process reduces the amount of biosolids requiring treatment prior to removal while improving methane production for the plant co-generation efforts which supply power to the plant facilities.

## Summary

DPW has made substantial progress toward full compliance at Back River. More specifically, suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, total phosphorus, ammonia, and total nitrogen have decreased significantly since March 2022. **All monthly parameters are currently under permit limits and Back River has maintained compliance since June.**

DPW recognizes that Back River is a valuable asset to the Baltimore region, and we are excited about the path forward to sustained compliance.